

Office of Rural Water

The Office of Rural Water (ORW) was established in 2016 to support small rural water systems. ORW provides technical assistance to owners and operators of small water systems and collaborates with local, state, and federal partners to develop sustainable, long-term solutions for aging infrastructures.

2019 Year in Review



Town of Latta – ORW collaborated with the Town of Latta and Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority to execute a formal Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the two parties. This agreement includes drinking water and wastewater systems. Monthly progress report meetings are being conducted to monitor progress and system improvements. Ultimately, the goal is for GSWSA to assume ownership of the water and wastewater systems.

Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina – ORW collaborated with TRICO, USDA and SERCAP to provide drinking water to the Pee Dee Indian Nation of Upper South Carolina. USDA provided funding for water line installation, TRICO reduced taps fees and SERCAP contributed funds for those who were still not able to pay the tap fees.



Mack Estates – ORW has successfully formed a working group consisting of representatives of the Mack estate, York County, Brice Law Firm and Mack residents to facilitate the installation of onsite wastewater systems and the planned closeout of the wastewater lagoon.

Town of Hemingway – ORW was instrumental in providing technical assistance and input for the Town of Hemingway to secure funding to address total trihalomethane (TTHM) issues in the drinking water system. This includes a treatment system for TTHMs and construction of a new well. ORW has also been involved with ensuring the Town has qualified operators and management for the sustainability of their drinking water and wastewater systems.



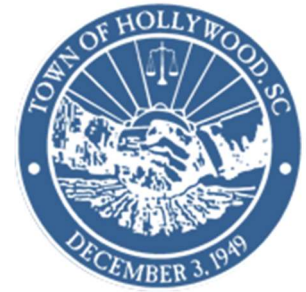


Town of Calhoun Falls – Utilizing partnerships with state and local government officials, Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), and funding partners such as the Rural Infrastructure Authority and State Revolving Fund, ORW continues to work with the Town of Calhoun Falls to secure wastewater system improvements.



SERCAP GIS Partnership – ORW is working with SERCAP on project technical assistance, which includes a grant for geographic information system (GIS) mapping of the system water and wastewater systems assets.

Town of Hollywood – ORW has worked extensively with local and state officials and environmental stakeholders to find solutions for an aged infrastructure. The efforts also included work towards a Three-Party Agreement with the Town of Hollywood, Charleston Water System, Dorchester County for the wastewater collection system. Although the Town ultimately decided to pursue other remedies, collaborative efforts are still ongoing.



WIIN Lead Testing Grant – ORW was instrumental in obtaining and will be managing SC's [Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water Grant](#), which creates a voluntary program to assist with testing for lead in drinking water at schools and child care programs in the state's [opportunity zones](#). This will include the prioritization of facilities serving younger children (Pre-K, K-5), underserved and low-income communities, and facilities that are older and more likely to contain lead plumbing.

2020 New & On-Going Initiatives

- **Facilitate** innovative collaborations and partnerships to support rural water systems.
- **Continue** on-going efforts to provide technical assistance to challenged rural water systems.
- **Develop** easily accessible resources for rural water systems on the ORW web page (www.scdhec.gov/office-rural-water).
- **Begin** working with the Private Well Program to be a resource to citizens who depend on residential wells for their drinking water.
- **Project management** of the *Lead Testing in School and Child Care Program Drinking Water* grant.
- **Continue** to develop the ORW to be better equipped to assist rural water systems with their ever growing challenges.